

U.S. Serial No. 09/981,148
Response to Office Action Dated January 9, 2008

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully considered the Office action dated January 9, 2008, and the references it cites. By way of this Response, claim 30 has been added, and claims 1, 15, 28 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice to their further prosecution. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The applicants, and particularly their undersigned representative, wish to express appreciation to Examiner Redman for the helpful telephonic and web-enabled conferences that have advanced prosecution of this case. While agreement was not reached on the patentability of particular claims, a constructive dialog occurred. That dialog resulted in agreement that the structure and resulting operation of the overlapping/interengaging seals shown in the application disclosed patentable subject matter, and that language could be found to allow the claims to distinguish over the references. Toward that end, a suggestion was made to focus the claims more particularly toward the interengaging nature of the seals of the instant application and their scaling operation in combination with a door panel translating laterally and vertically. New independent claim 30 (the other independent claims having been cancelled) focuses on the suggestion. It recites, *inter alia*, both of the seals as having u-shaped profiles (see Figs. 6-8) with two legs - one for attaching the seal to the surface to which it is mounted, and the other being spaced from the one leg. The claim also defines the first seal as having a recess between its two legs. The fourth leg of the second seal is disposed in the recess as the panel of the door moves toward the doorway blocking

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position. As the door panel translates laterally and vertically, the disposition of the second seal into the recess increases as the door panel moves toward the blocking position, placing the sealing surfaces of the two seals in sealing contact when the door panel is in the doorway blocking position. It is submitted that the structure and resulting operation of the door panel and seals clearly define over the references of record, and the claims are in form for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, he is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned representative.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 30 and all claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

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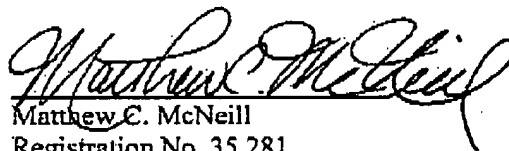
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 50-2455.

Please refund any overpayment to Hanley, Flight & Zimmerman, LLC at the address below.

Respectfully submitted,

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